



09-15-03

17438

PATENT  
030403-4 (formerly T268.12-0040)

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit: 1743 :  
Examiner: Gordon :  
In re application of : WATER AND SOIL AUTOSAMPLER  
Neal et al. :  
Serial No.: 09/803,414 :  
Filed: March 9, 2001 :  
C.F. 9/26/03

RECEIVED  
SEP 23 2003  
TC 1700

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

September 12, 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Commissioner:

Applicants, in accordance with the duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, hereby advise the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the references listed on the accompanying Form PTO/SB/08 *Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant* (substitute for Form 1449A/PTO). A copy of each of the cited references is herewith enclosed.

Express Mail Number ER524410202US  
Date of Deposit September 12, 2003

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

09/17/2003 RMEBRAHT 00000013 09803414

01 FC:1806

180.00 OP

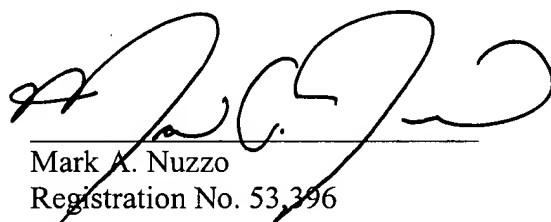
Patricia A. Mach

Applicants note that although the cited references may be relevant to the examination of the above-referenced application, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(h), the filing of this *Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant* "shall not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in § 1.56(b)."

Applicants further note that the filing of this *Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant* is not an admission that the references cited herein constitute prior art under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102-103 with respect to the captioned application.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)(2), Applicants have included payment of the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p). Also, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additionally required fees necessary for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement to Account No. 11-1110.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark A. Nuzzo  
Registration No. 53,396

KIRKPATRICK & LOCKHART LLP  
Henry W. Oliver Building  
535 Smithfield Street  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222-2312

Telephone: (412) 355-6292  
Facsimile: (412) 355-6501  
e-mail: mnuzzo@kl.com



PTO/SB/08A (10-01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO		<i>Complete if Known</i>	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>		Application Number	09/803,414
		Filing Date	March 9, 2001
		First Named Inventor	Neal
		Art Unit	1743
		Examiner Name	Gordon
(use as many sheets as necessary)			
Sheet	1	of	2
		Attorney Docket Number	030403-4 (T268.12-0040)

## **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

~~RECEIVED~~

SEP 7 3 2003

## **FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



/SB/08B (10-01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
				Application Number	09/803,414
				Filing Date	March 9, 2001
				First Named Inventor	Neal
				Art Unit	1743
				Examiner Name	Gordon
(use as many sheets as necessary)					
Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	030403-4 (T268.12-0040)

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published			T <sup>2</sup>
		United States Patent Application No. 09/803,405 filed March 9, 2001. (Attorney Docket No. 030403-1)			
		United States Patent Application No. 09/803,407 filed March 9, 2001. (Attorney Docket No. 030403-2)			
		United States Patent Application No. 09/803,412 filed March 9, 2001. (Attorney Docket No. 030403-3)			
		United States Patent Application No. 09/803,721 filed March 9, 2001. (Attorney Docket No. 030403-5)			

Examiner Signature		Date Considered
--------------------	--	-----------------

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.